

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/664,105	MASON, ROBERT W.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Taylor Victor Oh	1625	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/27/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26-53.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____             |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No. _____  | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|   | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

The previous Office Action has been vacated.

**Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- the rejection of Claims 26 ,37, 46 , 48, 50, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, has been withdrawn due to applicants' convincing argument.
- the rejection of Claims 26, 27, 28, 31, 33 , 37, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn due to applicants' convincing argument.
- the close references for the current invention are Okawa (U.S. 5,166,414) , Kober et al (U.S. 3,366,662) ,and Faraj (U.S. 5,686,645).

Okawa discloses a process of producing an isocyanate compound from reacting either a formamide compound or an amine compound with dimethyl carbonate in the presence of an alkali catalyst, thereby obtaining a corresponding urethane at a temperature of 0-150<sup>0</sup> C., and further converting the corresponding urethane by thermal decomposition at a temperature of 150-350<sup>0</sup> C. to generate an isocyanate compound .

Kober et al discloses a process of preparing isocyanates by reacting an organic carbonate, such as diphenyl carbonate with a diamine such as 5-chloro-2,4-tolylene diamine at a temperature of from 60<sup>0</sup> to 250<sup>0</sup> C.

Faraj reference discloses 2,4-bis(N-formamide) of toluene diamine known to be used as a reactant in the synthesis of isocyanate precursors.

However, the instant invention differs from the prior art references in that the reaction takes place in the absence of a catalyst in the phenol solvent; phenol formate ester is recycled to form an organic formamide and ; the organic formamide is recycled to the reaction mixture with an organic di- or polyamine. In addition, unless all limitations of the claims are met, there is no prior art rejection. See In re Zurko 59 USPQ 2d 1690 (Fed Cir. 1991) and In re Lee, 61 USPQ 1430 (Fed Cir. 1991). In the industrial process, the aforementioned process is important.

Therefore, applicants' claimed subject matter would not have been obvious to the person with an ordinary skill in the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*My [unclear] ✓*  
12/24/03

*D. Margaret Seaman*  
D. MARGARET SEAMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER